

COVERAGE NAME: FARM94

COVERAGE AREA : Counties

COVERAGE DESCRIPTION:

The 'Farmlands Mapping & Monitoring Program' compiles two kinds of farmland maps: Important Farmland Maps for those areas that have modern soil surveys, and Interim Farmland Maps for those areas lacking modern soil survey information and for which there is expressed local concern on the status of farmlands. Important Farmland Maps for California are compiled using eight mapping categories based, in part, on the LIM criteria. The minimum mapping unit is 10 acres unless otherwise specified. Interim Farmland Maps are prepared for specific agricultural counties lacking modern soil surveys. The use of an interim mapping methodology provides a benchmark, or point in time, by which urbanization can be tracked and provides a gross view of the status of farmlands.

The farmland categories used in these maps are not dependent on modern soil survey information; two categories of interim farmland are mapped in lieu of the four LIM categories of Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland and Farmland of Local Importance.

The categories of Irrigated Farmland and Non-irrigated Farmland are designed to be easily upgraded using LIM criteria as the USDA-SCS completes modern soil survey mapping and the technical soil information becomes available. The Interim Farmland Maps also utilize the categories of Grazing Land, Urban and Built-up Land, Other Land and Water as defined under the section on Important Farmland Map Categories.

Lands Committed to Nonagricultural Use is a category used only in California and was developed in cooperation with local government planning departments and county boards of supervisors during the public workshop phase in 1982. Information on Land Committed to Nonagricultural Use is available as an overlay to the standard farmland information.

Examples of these lands would include an area undergoing sanitary sewer installation or for which a bond or assessments have been issued for public utilities. Committed land represents a planning area designated for future nonagricultural development that is not reversible by a simple majority vote by a city council or board of supervisors. Cities and counties furnish information on Land Committed to Nonagricultural Use on a voluntary basis. The FMMP staff work with cities and counties to compile this information if they lack the resources to identify the qualifying areas.

VITAL STATISTICS:

Datum:	NAD 83
Projection:	UTM, zones 10 & 11
Units:	Meters
1st Std. Parallel:	N/A
2nd Std. Parallel:	N/A
Longitude of Origin:	N/A
Latitude of Origin:	N/A
False Easting (X shift)	N/A
False Northing (Y shift):	N/A
Source:	Department of Conservation
Source Media:	Mixed photo & 1:24,000 quad
Source Projection:	7 1/2' quad
Source Units:	Meters
Source Scale:	100,000
Capture Method:	Digitized
Conversion Software:	Arc/INFO
Data Structure:	Vector
ARC/INFO Coverage Type:	Polygon
Arc/INFO Precision:	Double
ARC/INFO Tolerances:	1 meter
Number of Features:	730,000
Layer Size:	40 MB
Version:	1986, 1988
Data Updated:	

DATA DICTIONARY:

File Name: FARM94.PAT
Record Length: 26

NOTE: Items common to all POLYGON coverages: AREA, PERIMETER, ALAU10# and ALAU10-ID are not described here.

COLUMN	ITEM NAME	WIDTH	OUTPUT	TYPE	N.DEC
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CODE: Code that identifies type of land

Code	Land Type	Description
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P Prime Farmland:

Lands with the best combination of physical and chemical features able to sustain long term production of agricultural crops. Must have been used to produce irrigated crops at some time during the two update cycles prior to the mapping date.

S Farmland of Statewide Importance:

Lands similar to Prime Farmland but with minor shortcomings, such as greater slopes or less ability to store soil moisture. Must have been used to produce irrigated crops at some time during the two update cycles prior to the mapping date.

U Unique Farmland:

Lesser quality soils used to produce State's leading agricultural crops. Includes non-irrigated orchards or vineyards.

L Farmland of Local Importance:

Lands of importance to the local agricultural economy, as determined each county's board of supervisors and a local advisory committee.

G Grazing Land:

Lands on which existing vegetation is suited to livestock grazing. This category developed in cooperation with the California Cattlemen's Association and U.C. Cooperative Extension. Is used only in California. Minimum mapping unit is 40 acres.

D Urban and Built-up Land:

Lands occupied by structures with a building density of at least one unit to 1.5 acres, or approximately six structures to a ten-acre parcel.

X Other Land:

Lands not meeting criteria of any other category.

W Water:

Water bodies 40 acres or more in size.

I Irrigated Farmland:

Cropped land with a developed irrigation water supply that is dependable and of adequate quality. Must have been used to produce irrigated crops at some time during the two update cycles prior to the mapping date.

N Non-Irrigated Farmland:

Land on which agricultural commodities are produced utilizing stored soil moisture.

N/A Land Committed to Non-Agricultural Use:

Existing farmland, grazing land and vacant areas which have a permanent commitment for development.

LP Local Potential:

All lands having Prime and Statewide soil mapping units which are not irrigated, regardless of cropping history or irrigation water availability.

Z Non-Surveyed:

Land not surveyed.

ZZ Non- Classification Survey Area:

Surveyed area not classified.

DATA QUALITY ASSESSMENT:

The following are subjective comments regarding this data.

The mapping only covers potential farmland areas; thus does not extend into national forest or highly urbanized areas, such as City and County of San Francisco. Grazing and other classifications are mapped at 40 acre minimum mapping area while urban is mapped at 10 acre minimum mapping area. As of 1992, county borders were not coincident between counties or with the Teale county tile structure.

The coverages have been checked twice for polygon labeling omission or duplication for years prior to 1990. The user must understand the classification conglomeration of: current land use, potential land use, soil type, irrigation use, and different minimum mapping units.

The guide to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program should be referenced as the basis for some classification changes by county.